

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: EDITORIALS HAIL KARAMANLIS, URGE RESTRAINT

1. SUMMARY. BANNER HEADLINES OF ATHENS' DAILIES REPORTING
CHANGEVER TO CIVILIAN RULE IMPLICITLY CONVEYED MAIN
EDITORIAL STANCE OF MOST OF CAPITAL'S PRESS: "DEMOCRACY"
APOYEVMATINI, " HE IS COMING," VRADYNI, AND "DEMOCRATIC RENAISSANCE
UNDER KARAMANLIS." IMERA. AFTER THE INITIAL EUPHORIA THESE AND
OTHER PAPERS PUBLISHED SUBSEQUENT EDITORIALS JULY 24, 25, 26
ANALYZING MEASURES NEEDED TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY. ONLY NEWLY
REBORN "ATHINAIKI" HAS THUS FAR SOUNDED THE THEME OF VENGEANCE
AGAINST THE JUNTA. PAPERS FORMERLY SUPPORTING PAPADOPOULOS
ARE ATTEMPTING TO SALVAGE THEIR REPUTATION BY STRESSING THE
ARMED FORCES GIVE KARAMANLIS HIS MANDATE. END SUMMARY.

2. NEWLY REBORN "ATHINAIKI" IN FIRST EDITORIAL JULY 24

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WELCOMED KARAMANLIS, URGED HIM TO USE ALL THE POLITICAL FORCES -

"OLD AND NEW WHICH HAVE RESISTED DICTATORSHIP" AND DEMANDED PUNISHMENT OF THE JUNTA "GANG OF MURDERERS IN THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL OF ATHENS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE OF NICOSIA." PAPER'S INITIAL THEMATIC AND PHOTO LAYOUT SUGGEST IT AIMS TO APPEAL TO STUDENTS, YOUTH AND LEFT-OF-CENTER WHICH LACKED A PRESS CHAMPION IN JUNTA GREECE. IT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME ANDREAS PAPANDEROU'S PRESS ARM.

3. "TA NEA" JULY 24 HAD SOME CAUSTIC ATTACKS AGAINST THE FORMER REGIME BUT WAS MORE GENEROUSLY INCLINED THAN "ATHINAIKI" TOWARD TOLERANCE. ITS LEAD EDITORIAL CONDEMNED "A DICTATOR WHOSE MEGALOMANIA EXCEEDS THE LIMITS OF RIDICULE. BUT THANK GOD THE REGIME WHICH TOPPLED PAPADOPOULOS SIZED UP ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THE NATION." "TA NEA" HAS NOT SHOWN ITS OLD, PRE-1967 LEFTIST FIRE; ITS RECENT EDITORIAL LINE TOGETHER WITH THAT OF ITS SISTER PAPER "TO VIMA" REFLECTS MODERATION, OR WHAT SOME CALL OPPORTUNISM, OF THEIR PUBLISHER, CHRISTOS LAMBRAKIS.

4. "VADYNI'S" FRONTPAGE JULY 24 EDITORIAL BEGAN: "MANY THOUSANDS OF READERS OF THIS NEWSPAPER NOW HAVE A TRIPLE JOY: FOR THE IDEAL OF DEMOCRACY WICH YESTERDAY FILLED THE HEART OF ALL GREEKS, THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF C. KARAMANLIS AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE PUBLICATION OF THIS PAPER AS A GUARANTEE FOR THE EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S BELIEFS." ON JULY 25 ITS LEAD EDITORIAL REJOICED IN THE DEMONSTRATION OF UNITY BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE. ITS SISTER PAPER, NEWLY RE-PUBLISHED "IMERA" HAS STRUCK EXUBERANT HEADLINES BUT SOUNDED MODERATE NOTES EDITORIALY. ON JULY 24, "IMERA'S" EDITOR VASSOS VASILIOU, WROTE "TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR GREECE TO BREAK ITS INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION, A FACT CONFIRMED BY THE TEXTS OF THE MESSAGES SENT TO MR. KARAMANLIS BY PRESIDENT NIXON, PM WILSON AND EVEN MR. ECEVIT." ON JULY 25 VASVAS PRAISED POLITICAL LEADERS WHO WERE COOPERATING WITH ARMED FORCES AND CAUTIONED THAT EVERY CITIZEN MUST BE INSPIRED BY THEIR EXAMPLE AND ISOLATE THOSE FEW WHO WOULD TRY TO BENEFIT FROM SUCH MOMENTS ON WHICH OUR FUTURE AND THAT OF OUR CHILDREN DEPEND.

5. RIGHTWING PRESS IS EXPERIENCING A CERTAIN EMBARRASSMENT AS IT REVERSES SEVEN YEARS OF ACCOMMODATION AND APOLOGY FOR JUNTA. "ELEFTHEROS COSMOS" APPARENTLY DECIDED BLUFF WAS THE BEST UNCLASSIFIED

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OPENER, COMMENCING ITS FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL JULY 24 WITH THE CLAIM, "THOSE OF US WHO HAVE WORKED FOR A KARAMANLIS SOLUTION HAVE A CALM CONSCIENCE." FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF DECLINING CIRCULATION AND AN END TO OFFICIAL SUBSIDIES, "COSMOS" PUBLISHED SAVVAS CONSTANTOPOULOS DWELLS ON THE DANGER OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU AND THE TURKS TO PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND COUNTRY'S FUTURE. "ACROPOLIS", WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSER TO LEADING JUNTA MEMBERS, FACES A DRAMATIC LOSS OF INFLUENCE, IF NOT CIRCULATION,

AND HAS QUICKLY REALIGNED ITS FOCUS TO HAIL KARAMANLIS AS
"A BEARER OF NATIONAL UNITY." "ESTIA" WARNED DARKLY, "IF
MR. KARAMANLIS FAILS... GREECE WILL RUN THE GRAVEST OF ALL
DANGERS IN ITS MODERN HISTORY."

6. COMMENT: ATHENIAN JOURNALISM GIVES VISIBLE TESTIMONY TO
CHANGE IN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. JOURNALISTS ARE, OF COURSE,
JUBILANT ABOUT RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON PRESS. JOURNALISTS'
UNION HAS ASKED FOR THE ESPEEDIEST POSSIBLE ABROGATION OF THE
1970 PRESS LAW. THERE ARE TWO NEW DAILIES AND THE POSSIBILITY
OF MORE, PARTICULARLY SHOULD HELEN VLACHOU DECIDE TO RELUNCH
"KATHIMERINI". "VRADYNI" REPORTED THAT ITS FIRST FULL ISSUE
JULY 24 HAD A PRESS RUN OF 650,000, WHICH BY ANY PREVIOUS
GREEK CIRCULATION STANDARDS IS FANTASTIC. GIVEN CHANGE OF
JOURNALISTIC FORTUNES, IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT MOST OF THE
EDITORIALS ARE THUS FAR ASPIRING FOR THE MIDDLE GROUND
AND LINING UP BEHIND KARAMANLIS.
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